

receiving means for receiving requirements for image forming from said client computer;

searching means for performing a search for image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses based on said information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and reporting a result of said search to said client computer;

means for receiving a user selection from said client computer for selecting one image forming apparatus based on said result; and

means for transmitting, to said client computer, information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, including the graphic layout of the operation panel of said one image forming apparatus selected, receiving from said client computer user instructions corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, and sending an image forming execution instruction to said one selected image forming apparatus.

37. (Amended) A client computer connected to a network having a plurality of image forming apparatuses and a server that stores information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, including storing a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to the network, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting requirements for image forming to said server;

receiving means for receiving a result of a search performed by said server, said search searching for image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses based on said information items associated with image forming to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

means for displaying said result of said search performed by said server;

means for entering a user selection for selecting one image forming apparatus to send an image forming execution instruction from among said image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements according to said result of said search; and

means for receiving, from said server, information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, including the graphic layout of the operation panel of said one image forming apparatus selected, entering user instructions corresponding to said one selected image forming apparatus, and sending an image forming execution instruction to said server.

40. (Amended) A network system comprising:

a client computer generating an image forming execution instruction and requirements for image forming;

a plurality of image forming apparatuses; and

a server configured to perform a search for searching one image forming apparatus from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses in accordance with said requirements,

wherein said server includes:

means for storing information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, including storing a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses;

means for reporting a result of said search; and

means for transmitting information items associated with image forming inherent to one image forming apparatus that is selected from among said image

forming apparatuses according to said result of said search by a user through said client computer,

wherein said client computer includes:

means for displaying said result of said search;

means for entering a user selection for selecting one image forming apparatus from among said image forming apparatuses according to said result of said search;

means for receiving information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected by said user selection, including the graphic layout of the operation panel of said one image forming apparatus selected;

and

means for entering an image forming execution instruction and requirements for image forming corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent to said one selected image forming apparatus.

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- 43. (Amended) A method of controlling a network image forming, comprising the steps of:

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storing information items associated with image forming inherent to each of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, including storing a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network;

receiving requirements for image forming from a client computer;

searching at least one image forming apparatus satisfying said requirements for image forming;

displaying a result of said searching step;

entering a user selection for selecting one image forming apparatus from among said at least one image forming apparatus;